

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 ORM-02 SCA-01 /088 W
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R 221530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS PRAGUE 1717

BELGRADE ALSO FOR US DEL CSCE

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CSCE, PGOV, SREF, SHUM
SUBJ: LIMITED AMNESTY FOR CZ. EMIGRES TAKES EFFECT

REF : PRAGUE 1026

1. SUMMARY - ON JUNE 17, EMBASSY'S CONOFFS CALLED ON DR. MIROSLAV VANEK, CHIEF OF MFA'S CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, AT HIS INVITATION. DR. VANEK DELIVERED GOC'S RESPONSES TO SEVERAL US PROPOSALS FOR RECIPROCAL VISA FACILITATION (SEPTELS), THEN ANNOUNCED THAT GOC HAD APPROVED CERTAIN REGULATIONS CONCERNING CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WHO WERE LIVING ABROAD WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES. UNDER THESE NEW REGULATIONS, MANY CZECHOSLOVAK EXPATRIATES WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INDIVIDUAL AMNESTIES, PERMITTING REUNIFICATION OR VISITATION
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WITH FAMILY MEMBERS STILL IN CSSR. DR. VANEK OUTLINED A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT MENTIONED TO US EARLIER BY HIS DEPUTY (REFTEL).
END SUMMARY

2. VANEK SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS ABROAD FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GOC WILL HAVE TWO POSSIBILITIES TO REGULARIZE THEIR STATUS WITH CZ. AUTHORITIES. THE FIRST WILL

BE TO APPLY FOR A CZ. EMIGRATION PASSPORT WHICH WOULD LEGALIZE THEIR STAY ABROAD AND ALLOW THEM TO RETURN TO CSSR FOR VISITS AND RE-DEPART. THOSE WHO HAVE ACQUIRED OTHER CITIZENSHIP, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAY APPLY FOR A RELEASE FROM CZ. CITIZENSHIP, WHICH WOULD ALLOW VISITS TO CSSR AS FOREIGNER. IN EITHER CASE, SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS IN CSSR WOULD BE ROUTINELY ELIGIBLE FOR EMIGRATION PASSPORTS, AND THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIVES WOULD GENERALLY BE ABLE TO VISIT THEM ABROAD.

3. PART OF EITHER APPLICATION WOULD BE A REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL PARDON FOR OFFENSE OF ILLEGAL DEPARTURE. APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE IN PERSON AT A CZ. EMBASSY AND MUST INCLUDE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ABROAD OR TO APPLICANT'S RELATIVES IN CSSR. COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE FORWARDED TO PRAGUE, WHERE VANEK ASSURED THAT ALMOST ALL WILL BE QUICKLY APPROVED, EXCEPT FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY HOSTILE TO CZ. INTERESTS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN STRIPPED OF CZ. CITIZENSHIP FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES.

4. FORMER CZ. CITIZENS WHO HAVE BECOME U.S. CITIZENS WILL ONLY NEED TO SUBMIT PROOF OF THEIR NATURALIZATION TO CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY TO OBTAIN A DOCUMENT ATTESTING TO THEIR LOSS OF CZ. CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE 1928 TREATY; THEY WILL THEN ALSO HAVE THE STATUS AND VISITATION RIGHTS OF A CZECH OR SLOVAK WHO LEGALLY EMIGRATED.

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5. CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD LESS THAN FIVE YEARS WITHOUT PERMISSION WILL BE ADVISED TO RETURN TO CSSR TO APPLY FOR EMIGRATION PERMISSION AND ALL OUTSIDE INTERVENTION ON THEIR BEHALF WILL BE REJECTED. VANEK SAID THAT CZ. GIRLS WHO HAVE MARRIED ABROAD WILL PROBABLY OBTAIN EMIGRATION PASSPORTS IN THIS MANNER. COMMENT: VANEK SAID THAT, HOWEVER, GOC CANNOT, WITH PRESENT LABOR SHORTAGE, PERMIT JUST ANYONE TO EMIGRATE. THUS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MOSTMOTHER SUCH RETURNEES WILL MOST LIKELY FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED HERE. END COMMENT. SUCH PERSONS WOULD ALSO HAVE CHOICE OF WAITING UNTIL FIVE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED TO REGULARIZE THEIR STATUS FROM ABROAD.

6. VANEK SAID THAT ALL CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSIES HAD BEEN INFORMED DURING MAY OF NEW PROCEDURES. ASKED IF HE COULD PROVIDE A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE NEW LAWS, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NONE, BUT IT WAS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL BE ROUTINELY PUBLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. COMMENT: AMNESTY PROGRAM, IF ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED AS INDICATED, WILL GO A LONG WAY TO SOLVE MANY OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN CASES RESULTING FROM THE MANY CZECHS AND SLOVAKS WHO

FLED THEIR COUNTRY AFTER THE 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY
WARSAW PACT FORCES AND WHO, UNTIL NOW, HAVE BEEN DENIED CONTACT
WITH RELATIVES LEFT BEHIND. UNTIL WE ACTUALLY SEE THE NEW LAWS
AND HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR APPLICATION, WE HESITATE
TO NOTIFY EN MASSE ALL THOSE PERSONS WE ARE AWARE OF WHOSE
SITUATION MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE AMNESTY. IN ANSWERING
CORRESPONDENCE FROM AFFECTED AMCITS OR RESIDENTS, HOWEVER, WE
INTEND TO SUGGEST THAT THEY CONTACT THE CZ. EMBASSY AND ATTEMPT
TO REGULARIZE STATUS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DO THE SAME AND
INFORM CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL AS WELL. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE HEARING ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT PICKS UP
CONCERNING ACTUAL RESULTS OF APPLICATIONS FOR AMNESTY.
BYRNE

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